

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 4, and cancel claims 2 and 3. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automated provision of legal documents to a client from a web-enabled server, said client being remotely connected to said server for communication therewith, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database of generic legal forms on [a] said web-enabled server, said maintenance of legal forms being performed under supervisory control of a lawyer remotely connected to said server for communication therewith;

presenting said client with a graphical user interface for allowing said client to select a desired type of legal document;

receiving user information from a user over an electronic communications link and packetizing said user information;

presenting said client with an HTML form for completion, said form including a plurality of questions that are selected in accordance with a legal document type selected by said client, each said question being identified within said HTML form by meta-tags;

receiving payment for a legal document using at least a portion of the user information received from the user;

receiving a corresponding plurality of answers to said selected client questions in the form of packetized data comprising individual answers and associated meta-tags;

selecting a legal form from said database of generic legal forms based on said answers to said selected questions;

rendering a personalized RTF legal document for said user by selectively merging the packetized [user information] individual answers with the selected legal form in said database on said web-enabled server based on said meta-tags and compiling [into] said [selected generic] personalized RTF legal [form] document;

outputting an HTML form to said user that contains a URL pointer to said personalized RTF legal document on said web-enabled server;

delivering said personalized RTF legal document to said user into a secondary browser window on said user's computer screen by RTF document export when said user clicks on said URL pointer.

2-3.(Canceled)

4.(Currently Amended) The method for automated provision of legal documents according to claim 1 3, wherein said ~~recursive document assembly process~~ rendering step further comprises combining said user packet of information with the selected skeleton document line by line to create a completed document in RTF format.

5.(Currently Amended) The method for automated provision of legal documents according to claim 4, wherein [relevant information] questions from the HTML questionnaire ~~is~~ are each identified by a meta-tags, and said meta-tagged information is inserted line-by-line into the skeleton document to yield a personalized document stored in an output file in RTF format.

6.(Previously presented) A method of RTF document assembly, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database of form documents;

requiring a user to complete an online HTML questionnaire with personalized information;

merging the personalized information from said HTML questionnaire into the form document by line-by-line writing selected information in RTF format into an output file;

securing payment authorization from said user;

outputting an HTML form to said user that contains a URL pointer to said RTF output file;

opening a secondary browser window upon user-selection of the pointer and displaying said RTF document therein.

7.(Previously presented) A method of rendering a personalized legal document for a user, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database of generic legal forms on a server;

collecting information on said user's legal needs without requiring identification information from said user by requiring said user to complete a form and transmitting said information over an electronic communications link;

requiring an attorney to choose a suitable legal form from said database of generic legal forms based on said collected information and while preserving anonymity of the user relative to the lawyer;

rendering a personalized legal document for said user by selectively merging the user information into said selected generic legal form;

delivering said personalized legal document to said user in a secondary browser window on said user's

Application No. 10/004,271
Applicant: Cauchon et al.
Art Unit: 2176
Examiner: Laurie Anne Ries
Page 7

computer screen by RTF document export.